



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **LINCOLN CHAFEE RECEIVES SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S 2005 COMMISSION ON BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) LIST**

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today received notice that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Department of Defense had chosen to **increase** the number of defense related jobs in Rhode Island by 531 in the latest realignment of military bases and manpower.

Rhode Island's defense installations - Naval Station Newport, which includes the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) and the Naval War College, and the Rhode Island National Guard – are necessary components of our national security, and are important engines for our economic growth. The state's military installations and facilities support 3,800 civilian and 1,500 military jobs, and the defense industry has an economic impact of \$1.5 billion in Rhode Island.

"This has been a long campaign to get the word out about how important – to the nation, to our defense, to Rhode Island – these bases are," said Senator Lincoln Chafee.

Chafee began his efforts to protect Rhode Island's defense establishment in the 2005 BRAC round as soon as he was appointed, including opening an office in Newport in order to be in closer contact to the defense community. He has worked with Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, incoming Deputy Secretary of Defense (and Secretary of the Navy) Gordon England, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for acquisition John Young, Principal Deputy Assistant Navy Secretary for Facilities and Installations Wayne Army, and Admiral Szemborski, the Principal Deputy Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation, among others, for Rhode Island's defense installations.

Chafee said "As the state's lone Republican representative, I did all I could to protect and improve Rhode Island through this process, up to and including opening the door of any Administration official that needed to be opened." He continued, "While a lot

of work went into ensuring Rhode Island put its best foot forward, in the end the case was easy to make: Rhode Island's military installations are top notch."

Chafee has worked closely with other members of Rhode Island's congressional delegation, Governor Carcieri, and many state and local officials in preparing Rhode Island for this BRAC round. Analysis of the installations strengths and weaknesses were prepared and analyzed, and action was taken to encourage greater cost-efficiency and further growth was acted on. One of the key vulnerabilities was the costs of overhead at Naval Station Newport was higher than in other state's installations. Thus, action was taken to cut costs, including reducing: electrical rates, saving about \$1.4 million per year; waste tipping fees, saving \$600,000 per year; and water rates, saving \$1.6 million per year.

The Secretary's list does not spell the end of the process. The independent Base Closure and Realignment Commission will begin its work, and will have until September 8<sup>th</sup> to make any changes before voting on a final list. Senator Chafee is very concerned about the loss of Submarine Base New London and the impact that it will have in many Rhode Islander's jobs, and thus he will work with colleagues from Connecticut and Rhode Island to convince the Commission of the need to preserve this vital institution. The list then goes to the President and Congress for approval.